

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9303  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAIR, PO  
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - NEW U.S. ABC FLIGHT RULES

REF: STATE 281131

1. EMBASSY OFFICER DELIVERED NOTE WITH CONTENTS OF REFTEL TO FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR BILATERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, PAULO ENNES; TO DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR CIVIL AERONAUTICS, BRIGADIER ALBERTO BASTOS; AND TO MANUEL ROCHA OF DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF TOURISM. WE ALSO SENT A COPY TO SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE TREASURY, ANTONIO RIBEIRO.
2. ENNES ALREADY WAS FAMILIAR WITH SUBSTANCE OF NEW ABC RULES. HE SAID THAT MATTER PROBABLY WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS AT REGULAR MEETING OF INTRO-GOVERNMENTAL AVIATION COMMITTEE (WHICH INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM FOREIGN AND FINANCE MINISTRIES, CIVIL AERONAUTICS DIRECTORATE, AIR FORCE, TAP, ETC.) ENNES POINTED OUT THAT GOP WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT NEW RULES BECAUSE OF ITS COMMITMENTS WITHIN ECAC, ALTHOUGH HE PERSONALLY FAVORS LIBERALIZATION WHICH WOULD PERMIT INCREASED TRAFFIC AT REDUCED RATES.
3. BRIGADIER BASTOS, THROUGH ECAC, WAS ALSO FULLY CONVERSANT WITH NEW ABC RULES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT GOP

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WOULD MAINTAIN SOLIDARITY WITH ECAC POSITION. BASTOS

FELT THAT NEW RULES ARE TOO LIBERAL, IN THAT CONDITIONS APPROACH THOSE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASERS OF REGULAR TICKETS. MOST PASSENGERS BOOK REGULAR FLIGHTS AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE. THUS REQUIREMENT OF 15 DAYS ADVANCE PURCHASE FOR ABC FLIGHTS AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1978 WOULD NOT PROVE VERY LIMITING. ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSTITUTION IS ALSO CONSIDERED TO BE TOO LIBERAL. SUCH CONDITIONS UNDERMINE VIABILITY OF AIRLINES PROVIDING SCHEDULED SERVICES. AN ASSISTANCE TO BASTOS WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CAB AND ECAC POSITIONS COULD BE OVERCOME. NOTING THAT AN ECAC REPRESENTATIVE IS MEETING IN WASHINGTON WITH THE CAB, HE SAID THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE REVIEWED AT UPCOMING ECAC MEETING.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT GOP WILL CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO ECAC POSITION, ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE SUBJECT TO CONFLICTING INTERNAL PRESSURES. TOURISM DIRECTORATE CLEARLY IS PUSHING FOR AS MUCH LIBERALIZATION AS POSSIBLE, ON THE THEORY THAT THE MORE LIBERAL THE RULES, THE MORE TOURISTS. TAP SEEMS TORN BETWEEN A DESIRE TO PROTECT ITS SCHEDULED FLIGHTS AND A DESIRE TO LEAP INTO THE CHARTER BUSINESS AS A MEANS TO UTILIZE ALL ITS CAPACITY.

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## Message Attributes

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